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APPENDIX VI.

[Vide anwer to question No. 103 asked by Mr. M. Devadasan at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 2nd August 1933, page 184 supra.]

Letter from Mr. R. Ananda Rao, Salem, on behalf of the Salem Shevvapet Coffee-Hotels' Proprietors' Association, to the Private Secretary to His Excellency the Governor of Madras, dated 26th March 1933.

In the meeting held on 17th March 1933 by the Salem Shevvapet Coffee-Hotels' Proprietors' Association, it has been resolved that I should communicate the following memorial for kind consideration and favourable orders of His Excellency the Governor of Madras.

I request the same may be placed before His Excellency and acknowledged and favourable orders passed directing the Salem Municipal Council to withdraw their resolution, dated 17th February 1933.

For which I shall feel highly grateful.

Memorial of V. Subrahmanya Ayyar and forty-five others of Salem, dated 20th March 1933, to His Excellency the Governor of Madras.

MAY IT PLEASE HIS EXCELLENCY:

We, the undersigned proprietors and licence-holders of the Coffee-hotels and clubs doing business in the limits of the Salem Municipality beg to submit this Memorial against the unwarranted, uncalled for, resolution passed by the Salem Municipal Council in its meeting held on 17th February 1933, regarding the allowing of the Adi-Dravidas into the hotels and clubs managed by us, and request that the Government would be pleased to order the cancellation of the said resolution and direct the Salem Municipality not to go beyond the limits of power vested in them on the following

Grounds.

That the Salem Municipal Council, in its meeting held on 17th February 1933, passed the following resolution, reading as follows:—

"This Council resolves that all the coffee-clubs, meals-hotels, and sweetmeat shops should be made accessible to the so-called untouchable classes; (2) The above resolution to be made a bye-law. This should be imposed as a condition in every licence that is to be issued to these traders in future. The mover of the resolution proposed an amendment that the eating houses may be deleted."

1. The above resolution, if given effect to, would naturally affect the rights of the individual proprietors of the above hotels, because of the fact that they are more or less compelled to allow access to the Adi-Dravidas who are by customs and traditions from time immemorial regarded and treated as *untouchables*.

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2. As per the great declaration made by *Her Majesty the Queen Victoria* (Late) the Government is considered to be the custodian as well as the guardian of the rights and privileges enjoyed by the Hindus and every Indian citizen. It is very clear from the "*Victoria Chart*" the Government would keep '*non-interference in the religious sanctise of the Hindu Nation in India*' which the Salem Municipal Council has openly violated, in spite of the Government's sincerity in keeping to the above chart.

3. The coffee clubs and hotels are kept and run by individuals and the proprietors of the hotels are the sole-authorities for selling things to those persons to whom they like and they cannot be compelled by any statutory power that is now in existence.

4. The Municipality has no doubt certain powers vested in them in their administrative capacity over these restaurant and hotels and that is so far as health-point of view is concerned.

5. Issue of licence means that the proprietors should be responsible by the existing bye-law of the Salem Municipality and also the Local District Municipalities Act to keep the premises, things, etc., used for the distribution as clean and neat and healthy. It is only in these points the Council can interfere in the affairs of the coffee hotels and restaurants and on no other ground compelling an individual proprietor or all the proprietors of coffee hotels in Salem to allow this man and that man and treat him in this way and that way and if they do not be pleased to abide by that proposal the resolution very clearly says that the licences would be cancelled. This is more or less a threat which leads to interfere in the internal management of the hotels which right the Council has not.

6. There is no provision in either the District Municipalities Act or in the Rules and Bye-laws framed under the Act empowering the Council to take such a high-handed action over the proprietors named above.

7. The Council, before passing a resolution, had not the courtesy enough to send or circulate the resolution and obtain the views of the public or the concerned or even without recording the opinion of the concerned for its final decision in the matter.

8. The resolution of the Council is against the law, detriment to the wishes and usage of the public, the hereditary observation of the Hindus from time immemorial and if allowed to be given effect to, *It is likely to rise the spirits of the law abiding peaceful citizens.*

9. The above resolution of the Municipal Council, Salem is an abuse of power vested in it under the District Municipalities Act, and is purely and purposely intended to support the political movement "*Swarajya.*"

10. The *memorialists* therefore pray that the benign Government may be pleased to use the powers vested in them under the District Municipalities Act, by calling for the connected records, rescind the resolution by an order of cancellation of the resolution.

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Letter from A. H. A. Todd, Esq., I.C.S., Collector of Salem, to the Secretary to the Government of Madras, Local Self-Government Department, dated 29th March 1933, No. R.O.C. 1855-33/B-1.

The Salem Municipal Council at its meeting held on 17th February 1933 has passed a resolution (copy enclosed) framing a bye-law that all coffee clubs and sweetmeat shops should be made accessible to the so-called untouchables. I doubt if such a bye-law would in any way benefit the Adi-Dravidas. It would probably lead either to their forcible ejection if they tried to enter the coffee shops or else to the abstention of many caste people. If there is any demand for such refreshments by Adi-Dravidas, doubtless Adi-Dravida places of refreshment will spring up to meet the demand. It seems opposed to a large body of public opinion and I see no reason why people who think themselves contaminated by eating or drinking with Adi-Dravidas should have their customs forcibly interfered with merely because some councillors who run no risk themselves should choose to pass a bye-law. Only 16 councillors voted for the motion. I therefore recommend that the resolution may be cancelled.

Copy of Resolution No. 1418.

Read Resolutions of Srimathi N. Madavi Ammal:—

This Council resolves that all coffee clubs, meals hotels, and sweetmeat shops should be made accessible to the so-called untouchable classes; (2) the above resolution to be made a bye-law. This should be imposed as a condition in every licence that is issued to these trades in future.

The mover proposes an amendment that eating houses may be deleted. The seconder M.R.Ry. A. A. Chettiyar accepts the amendment. M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib D. P. Chennakrishna Chettiyar proposes another amendment to add ‘ excepting the hotels and coffee clubs ear-marked for certain communities ’.

Five voted for and 11 against the amendment of M.R.Ry. Rao Sahib D. P. Chennakrishna Chettiyar. Sixteen voted for and nil against the amendment of the mover.

Amendment of the mover carried.